

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 062099

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM CAIRO DATED MARCH 14, 1976

SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO MOSCOW, TEL AVIV IS REPEATED

TO YOU: QUOTE

UNCLAS CAIRO 3287

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO ALL ARAB CAPITALS

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PINT EG

SUBJECT: SADAT SPEECH: MARCH 14

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1. SUMMARY.. MAJOR BOMBSHELL IN SADAT'S SPEECH WAS RECOMMENDATION
TO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY THAT 1971 SOVIET-EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP
TREATY BE REPUDIATED, WHICH WAS ACCOMPANIED BY UNRESTRAINED
ATTACK ON SOVIETS. ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, SADAT REJECTED POLITICAL

PARTIES AND CALLED FOR FORMATION OF THREE "FORUMS"-- RIGHT, LEFT AND CENTER UNDER UMBRELLA OF ASU. SADAT STRONGLY CRITICIZED IRRESPONSIBILITY OF EGYPTIAN PRESS AND CALLED FOR REORGANIZATION THAT WOULD BRING "NEW GENERATION" OF JOURNALISTS TO POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY. HE STRONGLY DENIED ALLEGATIONS OF NEW MILLIONAIRES AND LARGE COMMISSIONS RESULTING FROM ECONOMIC OPEN-DOOR POLICY. WHILE DEFENDING INTEGRITY OF NASSER, SADAT WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF FORMER AHRAH EDITOR HAYKAL WITHOUT NAMING HIM. PRESIDENT HAD HIGH WORDS OF PRAISE FOR ARMED FORCES, BUT MADE CLEAR THAT THEIR DUTY IS TO SAFEGUARD CONSTITUTION AND NOT TO INTERFERE WITH ANYTHING ELSE. ON ECONOMIC POLICY, SADAT PRAISED ARAB STATES FOR RECENT FINANCIAL PLEDGES, BUT SAID FOR FIRST TIME THAT EGYPT FACES PERIOD OF AUSTERITY OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS, WHICH WILL COINCIDE WITH NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN. PRIME MINISTER SALIM WAS GIVEN CREDIT FOR BEING FIRST TO BRING "CALAMITY" OF EGYPT'S ECONOMIC SITUATION TO SADAT'S NOTICE. ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WITHOUT ATTACKING ANY STATES BY NAME, SADAT RIDICULED MANEUVERINGS AND SLOGANEERING OF THOSE ARABS WHO HAVE DESTROYED ARAB UNITY HE SUCCEEDED IN BUILDING PRIOR TO OCTOBER WAR. HE TOOK CREDIT FOR ENHANCING REPUTATION OF EGYPT AND ARABS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND CALLED UPON OTHER ARABS FOR UNITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS THAT WILL ENABLE ARAB NATION TO PLAY ITS ROLE AS SIXTH POWER. ON US, SADAT SAID NO ARAB NATIONALIST COULD RESIST OPPORTUNITY TO ELIMINATE HISTORIC ISRAELI BIAS IN US POLICY AND HE WOULD NOT APOLOGIZE FOR HAVING SEIZED THIS OPPORTUNITY SINCE US CONTINUES TO HOLD 99 PERCENT OF CARDS IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. SADAT SAVED SOVIETS FOR LAST AND, EMPHASIZING GRAVITY OF PROBLEM, HE ACCUSED SOVIETS OF PLAYING CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME WITH BOTH NASSER AND HIMSELF. HE SAID MOSCOW HAD REFUSED RESUPPLY ARMS OR RESCHEDULE DEBTS AND WAS DEMANDING THAT EGYPT EVEN PAY INTEREST ON WAR DEBTS. CROWNING BLOW WAS SOVIET REFUSAL TO ALLOW INDIA TO OVERHAUL OR SUPPLY SPARE PARTS FOR MIG-21S. TO CHEERS OF ASSEMBLY, SADAT SAID MOSCOW PRESSURE IS TO BRING EGYPT TO ITS KNEES BUT "I FALL ON MY KNEES ONLY BEFORE GOD." SADAT THEN ASKED ASSEMBLY TO RESCIND 1971 TREATY. END UNCLASSIFIED

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SUMMARY..

2. PRESIDENT SADAT SPOKE TO A COMBINED PEOPLES ASSEMBLY/ARAB SOCIALIST UNION AUDIENCE EVENING MARCH 14. PRESIDENT, WHO SPOKE FOR THREE HOURS, BEGAN WITH DOMESTIC POLITICAL AFFAIRS:

A. FORUMS (MINBARS). SADAT COMMENDED COMPREHENSIVE WORK OF ASU COMMITTEE ON FUTURE OF POLITICAL ACTION. AFTER CITING NECESSITY OF RESOLVING CONFLICT BETWEEN GENUINE DEMOCRACY AND STABILITY AND OF ADHERING TO MAJORITY OPINION, SADAT SAID FOUR BASIC CONCLUSIONS HAD BEEN APPROVED BY MAJORITY:

1) IMPERATIVE THAT ALLIANCE OF PEOPLES WORKING FORCES MAINTAIN 50 PERCENT PARTICIPATION BY WORKERS AND PEASANTS IN

ALL POLITICAL BODIES:

2) COMPLETE REJECTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES SINCE THEY
WOULD NOT BE OF SUFFICIENT MATURITY:

3) ESTABLISHMENT OF FORUMS WHICH WOULD ATTRACT MASSES
AND WOULD STUDY PROBLEM TO PRESENT CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM; AND

4) THREE FORUMS ONLY--RIGHT, LEFT AND CENTER, THE
LATTER BEING THE BASIC FORUM. THESE WILL BE UNDER UMBRELLA OF ASU.

ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE GREETED THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT HE HOPED ALL THREE MINBARS WOULD PROVIDE CANDIDATES AND
PROGRAMS IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS (AUTUMN 1976). PRESIDENT OF
REPUBLIC, HE STRESSED, SHOULD EXERT NO INFLUENCE ON THE MINBARS.

B. PEOPLES ASSEMBLY. PRESIDENT GAVE SCARCELY VEILED CAUTION
TO AUDIENCE, WARNING AGAINST IRRESPONSIBILITY OF UNFOUNDED
CHARGES AIRED IN PEOPLES ASSEMBLY WHICH JEOPARDIZES PRACTICE OF
DEMOCRACY. QUOTING VARIOUS EXAMPLES, INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS THAT
THERE ARE 500 MILLIONAIRES IN EGYPT AND THAT LE TWO BILLION
IN COMMISSIONS HAVE BEEN ILLEGALLY GARNERED, PRESIDENT SAID
THESE ARE UNACCEPTABLE SINCE THEY ARE UNTRUE.

C. PRESS. PRESIDENT SPOKE OUT STRONGLY AGAINST SIMILAR
IRRESPONSIBILITY WHICH HE COMPLAINED NOW CHARACTERIZES EGYPTIAN
PRESS, WHICH HAS ENVENOMED ATMOSPHERE AT HOME AND
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AFFECTED EGYPT ADVERSELY ABROAD. JOURNALISTS HAVE AIRED
GRUDGES, OLD FEUDS AND SOUGHT PERSONAL FAME. PRESS SHOULD BE
REORGANIZED COMPLETELY UNDER EXISTING HIGHER PRESS COMMITTEE,
ALTHOUGH 51 PERCENT ASU-49 PERCENT WORKER OWNERSHIP SHOULD BE
RETAINED AND CENSORSHIP SHOULD NOT BE RE-INTRODUCED. "NEW GENERATION"
SHOULD CONTROL THE PRESS (COMMENT: AU REVOIR TO THE AMINS).
AS HE SAID RE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, PRESIDENT SAID PRESS IS DESTROYING
OUR FAITH IN OURSELVES. AS SPECIFIC EXAMPLE, HE CITED AKHBAR
AL-YAWM CHARGE THAT NASSER HAD STOLEN \$15 MILLION, A CHARGE
SADAT SAID WHICH IS TOTALLY UNFOUNDED. PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED
INTEGRITY OF NASSER IS BEYOND QUESTION; NASSER WROTE GLORIOUS
CHAPTERS OF THE HISTORY OF EGYPT AND THE ARAB WORLD.

D. NASSER. PRESIDENT, AS HAS BEEN HIS HABIT, LEAPT TO
DEFENSE OF NASSER, PILLARING HAMAMSI (OF AKHBAR AL-YAWM) BY
NAME AS A MAN WITH GRUDGE. BUT, ALTHOUGH SADAT IN SPEECHES HAS
ALWAYS LENT SUPPORT TO NASSER'S MEMORY, HE HAS ALWAYS ALSO EMPHASIZED
HIS OWN ACHIEVEMENTS AND EMPHASIZED "FACT" THAT HE IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR ALL NASSER HAS DONE. THUS, WHILE MAKING CLEAR THAT NASSER WAS
HIS DEAREST FRIEND, PRESIDENT ALSO TOOK CLEAR BACKHANDED BLOW
AT HIS MEMORY BY ATTACKING HAYKAL, A "CENTER OF POWER WHICH NASSER
HIMSELF CREATED." HE BLAMED HAYKAL DIRECTLY FOR CONTRIBUTING
TO "WELL-DESIGNED CAMPAIGN OF DOUBT", WHICH HE SAID HAS BEEN

GENERATED AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT AND AGAINST HIMSELF PERSONALLY.

3. PRESIDENT SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL COMMENT WHAT HE CALLED
TWO POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS WITH VITAL ROLE:

A. ARMED FORCES. ROLE OF ARMED FORCES WITHIN ALLIANCE OF
PEOPLES WORKING FORCES IS BASED ON THEIR SPECIAL SACRIFICE
IN FIELD OF HONOR AND CONSTITUTES THEIR SAFEGUARDING OF THE
PERMANENT CONSTITUTION. CONSTITUTION IS SACRED AND ITS
PROTECTION IS GREAT NATIONAL MISSION. NO ONE, AS SADAT HAD
EXPLAINED DURING WW II TO MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, CAN DOMINATE
ARMED FORCES, WHICH BELONG TO PEOPLE. "THOSE WHO TRIED TO
PUSH ARMED FORCES TOWARD TRENDS WHICH WERE NOT THERE" HAVE BEEN
STYMIED (COMMENT: PRESIDENT WAS AMBIGUOUS, BUT HE MAY HAVE
MEANT SOVIETS). IN POINTED CONCLUSION, PRESIDENT SAID ARMED
FORCES' DUTY IS TO SAFEGUARD CONSTITUTION, "NOT TO INTERFERE IN
ANYTHING ELSE WHATSOEVER."

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B. POSITION OF PRESIDENT. APPARENTLY

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TRIPOLI
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